MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
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30TH ANNIVERSARY
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
1962-1992

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ NIGHTCRAWLER 1
MALE BONDING
Part 3 of 8
"WHATEVER WE DO"

Last issue, Wolverine and Nightcrawler learned that appearances were deceiving and that the monster they fought was really an ally. Now, they must begin to root out the evil of Winzeldorf...

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler — GENE COLAN
Inker – AL WILLIAMSON
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

YOUNG GODS 9
AGAINST A ROGUE GOD
Part 3 of 9
"KILLERS IN THE RAIN"

Previously, having been granted permission by the Celestials to come to Earth to investigate the source of a great evil, the Young Gods find themselves divided into three teams...

Plot — GERRY CONWAY
Script – ERIC FEIN
Artist — TOM SUTTON
Letterer — PHIL FELIX
Colorist — TOM SMITH

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

Dear Terry,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #96:

Wow, what a cover!

FLIP!

Wow, what a cover!

Both the Wolverine and Ghost Rider & Cable covers were fabulous! I'm beginning to like this flip-side format even more!

The Wolverine cover is another example of Sam Kieth's wide range of artistic talents. Rating: A.

The Ghost Rider/Cable cover was also nice, but who's that blond haired woman on the front? Rating: A-.

Is there a dying theme to this issue? At the end of the "Wild Frontier" feature, Wolverine screams, "You're Gonna Die!" Then, on the very next page at the beginning of the Nova story, Kasema sobs, "We are all going to die!" And then there's the Ghost Rider and Cable feature that is titled "The Servants of the Dead." Fortunately, Speedball saved us from all that gloom and doom. Onwards!

The Wolverine feature is still a very good read and I'm looking forward to Wolvie's confrontation with Uncegila. Just what manner of beast is Uncegila anyway? And was Sparrow Hawk really the one and only Silver Fox? Rating: A-.

The Nova feature was satisfactory. Nothing great, nothing bad. The art is fine, but the story is dull. Rating: B.

FLIP!

This Ghost Rider and Cable adventure is really shaping up! Guang Yap's art fits perfectly for a story with fast-paced action, and the use of shadows in his art is used nicely. The story moves along briskly and doesn't waste any time, although I do feel that Cable is being underused. Rating: A-.

Sigh. Will Speedball ever face a serious opponent? This feature was just downright goofy, and I had a hard time enjoying the totally absurd situations that kept occurring. Come on, I know Scott Lobdell can do better than this! Rating: C.

Overall rating of MCP #96: B+

Mike Farmer
8745 Lake Glen Ct.
Alpharetta, GA 30202

Geez, Mike, what do you want, anyway, Speedball against Hamlet? Don't worry, Scott, he was only kidding...

Dear Terry,

Once again, a fine job by the crew of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Here goes nothing.

1) Ghost Rider and Cable: The penultimate chapter. And I'm proud. I don't see why people oppose this storyline, as it is excellent. The art is good, and Howard Mackie can really do suspense stories. I fully expect a surprise next issue when we find out the mystery of the Grateful Undead. Overall grade: A+.

2) Nova: This story was never all that great, never all that spectacular—but I liked it, probably due to my interest in Marvel's cosmic world. The final chapter resolved things nicely, including the cliffhanger last ish. I'd also like to see more work from Gavin Curtis. He is a very promising artist. Overall grade: A-.

3)Speedball: This one was cute and better than that last ridiculous Speedball story you guys presented. The script was nice and pretty funny, and I did enjoy the art. Speedy is a good character, and he should return soon to these hallowed pages —perhaps drawn by Steve Ditko, who did his original book. Overall grade: A.

4) Wolverine: And the story thickens. The art is still as beautiful and clear as ever, and Tim Truman is steadfastly doing his job... right. This tale of another past is one that I will always remember with the Wolverine mythos. Overall grade: Still an A+.

5) Ghost Rider/Cable Cover: B.

6) Wolverine Cover: B+.

Joey Marchese
116 Emerald Place
Clark, NJ 07066

"YOU WERE UPSET.
"THAT MUCH WAS CLEAR.
WOLVERINE
NIGHTCRAWLER
STEFAN-- THIS IS MADNESS!
DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF MADNESS, MY STEP BROTHER!
I SEE THE WORLD THE WAY IT IS!
I RECOGNIZE THESE MONSTERS FOR WHAT THEY ARE!
IT IS UP TO ME TO DESTROY THEM!
"WHATEVER WE DO..."
MALE BONDING PART III
"YOU WERE FIGHTING TO THE DEATH IN A BATTLE AGAINST YOUR STEP-BROTHER STEFAN.
"YOU WERE RISKING YOUR LIFE...
"...TO SAVE MINE.

NEIN, MY BROTHER!
FOR WEEKS I HAVE BEEN ONE STEP BEHIND YOU--
--UNABLE TO PREVENT YOUR RANDOM SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS!
SMAAASSHHH!
NO MATTER THE COST...
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO CONTINUE!
INNOCENTS?!
KLUMP

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THE MONSTERS THAT HIDE WITIN THESE MORTAL DISGUISES?!
DOES IT FALL ON ME ALONE TO RID THE WORLD OF THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY IT?!
STEFAN, PLEASE...
...THEY ARE JUST CHILDREN...
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, KURT.
I--I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.

BECAUSE THE TRUTH...
THE TRUTH IS MORE THAN I CAN BEAR.
YOU ONCE SWORE YOU'D SEE ME DEAD WERE I TO GO MAD, BROTHER--

--I INTEND TO HOLD YOU TO YOUR WORD!
KRAK
"WITH THE STRENGTH OF THE INSANE, STEFAN USED YOUR TAIL...
"...TO SNAP HIS OWN NECK!
"AS LONG AS I LIVE, I WILL NEVER FORGET THE SOUND OF YOUR HOWL AS IT PIERCED THE SKY THAT NIGHT.
"THE SIGHT OF YOU GENTLY CRADLING STEFAN'S CORPSE IN YOUR ARMS--
"-- IS SOMETHING I SEE EVERY TIME I CLOSE MY EYES TO SLEEP.
"I OWE YOU MY LIFE, KURT WAGNER.
"FOR I WAS THE CHILD YOU SAVED THAT NIGHT.
"THE SAME CHILD... "

...YOU SEE BEFORE YOU.
I HAVE WATCHED YOU GROW OVER THE YEARS, MY SAVIOUR.
FIRST AS A MEMBER OF THE X-MEN WITH WOLVERINE--
--LATER, AS A FOUNDER OF ENGLAND'S MIGHTY EXCALIBUR.
I WOULD NEVER HAVE BOTHERED YOU, IF MY LIFE --
--THE LIVES OF THOSE I LOVE...
WERE NOT THREATENED ONCE AGAIN!
THEN MY BROTHER WAS RIGHT--HE WAS KILLING MONSTERS!
WHICH MEANS HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF...FOR NOTHING!
ELF, GIVE THE KID A BREAK.
HE RISKED A LOT GETTIN' HERE...

WE SHOULD AT LEAST HEAR HIM OUT.
DANKE, WOLVERINE.
MY STORY-- MY LIFE-- BEGINS FAR FROM HERE--
"ON A FARM DEEP WITHIN THESE HILLS.
"MY FAMILY, AND OTHERS LIKE THEM, SEEK TO DWELL PEACEFULLY AMONG THE HUMANS.
"AT NIGHT WE SHED OUR MORTAL GUISES...
"... THE REST OF THE WORLD BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF OUR EXISTENCE.
"WHEN WE VENTURE FORTH AMONG THE LOCAL VILLAGES, WE'RE ALWAYS CAREFUL TO DISGUISE OURSELVES...
"... FOR THE HUMANS HAVE MADE IT APPARENT THEY REFUSE TO ABIDE MONSTERS IN THEIR MIDST.
"IT HAS LONG BEEN THEIR TRADITION TO SLAY THE MEMBERS OF OUR RACE...
... OFTEN IN THE MOST GRUESOME WAYS POSSIBLE."

"NOT SINCE YOUR BROTHER SOMEHOW MANAGED TO PIERCE OUR VEIL OF SECRECY HAVE THE MONSTERS LIVED IN SUCH FEAR.
"WERE WE HUMANS, WE MIGHT FIGHT--AND KILL--TO KEEP OUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD.
"BUT AS MY FATHER ASSURED THE REST AMONG US...
"IF THERE BE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAN AND MONSTER...
"IT IS THAT WE HAVE SWORN OFF VIOLENCE.
"NONETHELESS, THE FEAR GROWS EACH PASSING DAY."
TRAVELING CIRCUS
HERR INDIGO
THIS MORNING, WHEN I SAW THE POSTER HERALDING YOUR RETURN TO WINZELOORF, I KNEW NOTHING WOULD STOP ME--
--FROM ENLISTING YOUR AID IN THE DEFENSE AGAINST THE PERSECUTION OF A PEACEFUL PEOPLE.
Y-YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE HAS TAKEN UP STEFAN'S MANTLE AS SELF-APPOINTED EXECUTIONER OF MONSTERS--
--AND YOU LOOK TO ME TO STOP HIM?!
DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT MY BROTHER DIED BECAUSE OF YOU?
I SHOULD HATE YOU FOR THE ROLE YOU PLAYED IN HIS DEATH!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, KURT.
FACT IS, NOBODY KNOWS BETTER THAN YOU--
--WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FEARED AND HATED JUST ON ACCOUNT OF HOW YOU LOOK.

PLEASE, MY SAVIOR PLEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!
WHOOOSSH!!
LOGAN YAS--?!
GET DOWN, ELF!
SOMEONE--OR SOMETHING--IS ATTACKING THE POOR KID!
CAN'T PICK OUT ANY NEW SCENTS... WHICH MEANS IT'S PROBABLY A MYSTICAL ATTACK FROM SOMEWHERE!
BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO!

DON'T EVEN THINK IT.
NO WAY YOU CAN TELEPORT INTO THE CENTER OF THAT...
... AND EXPECT TO LIVE.
BUT WHO... ?
...HOW ?

SO MUCH FOR THE MONSTERS' PLEDGE OF NON-VIOLENCE.
HIS OWN PEOPLE MUST HAVE PUNISHED THE CREATURE FOR BREAKING THEIR CODE OF SILENCE.

THEN I VOW THE YOUTH WILL BE AVENGED--
--AS I FINISH THE JOB MY STEP-BROTHER STEFAN STARTED SO MANY YEARS AGO!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

NORTHERN IRELAND -- THE PRESENT..
A LIGHT DRIZZLE, WHAT WE IRISH CALL SOFT WEATHER, FILLS THE MORNING
NORMALLY, IT WOULD SOOTHE MY NERVES, CLEANSING ME
BUT NOT TODAY. IT CAN'T WASH AWAY THE SMELL OF DEATH THAT HANGS IN THE AIR
WITNESS THESE THREE. HOW CAN MAN BE SO CRUEL -- SO HEARTLESS..
. TO ATTACK CHILDREN TO ACHEVE THEIR GOALS.
COME ON! HURRY IT UP. GET THE REST OF THE DYNAMITE RIGGED UP.
TAKE IT EASY. THIS IS GOING TO BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
NO.. YOU'RE HEARING THINGS.
KILLERS IN THE RAIN
FEATURING THE.
YOUNG GODS IN AGAINST A ROGUE GOD
PART 3

LOOK AT THIS! THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY GOING ON DOWN HERE!
BLUB!
BLUB!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

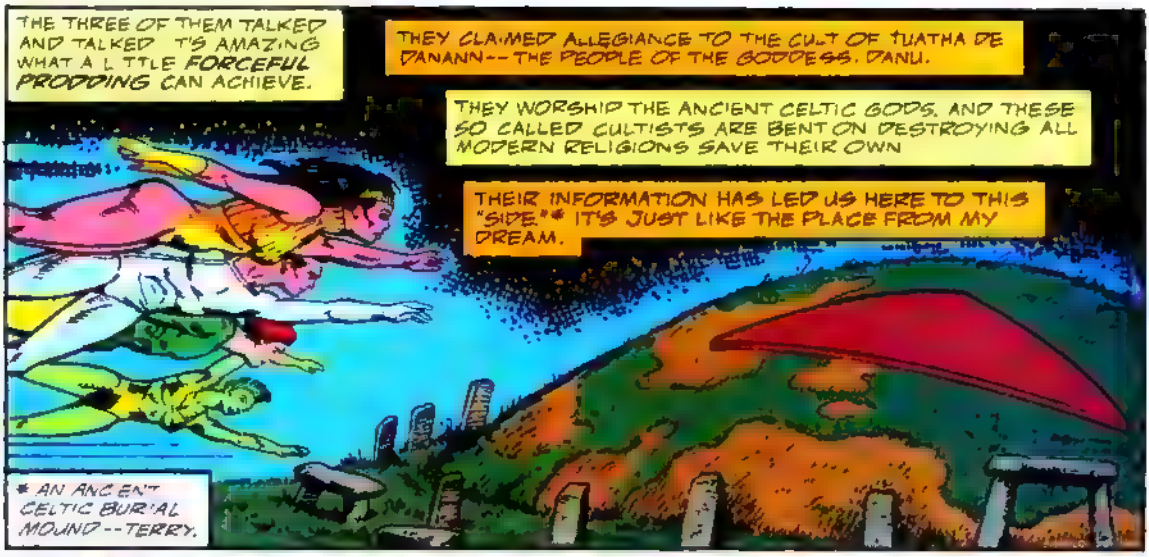
AIEEE!
HELP!
ARRGH!
WHOOSH
I MAKE SURE THAT MY WATER BLAST IS HIGH ENOUGH TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF THEM--

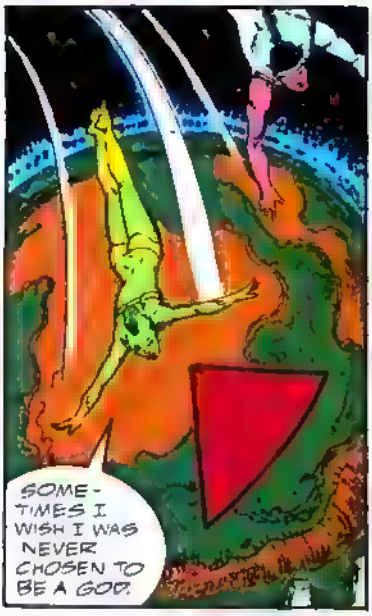
--BUT NOT KILL THEM
TWO OF THEM WON'T BE BOTHERING ANYBODY FOR A WHILE.
THUD
SPLAT

THIS ONE WILL NEED A LITTLE MORE PERSUASION TO SEE THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS
:GASP- I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT I'M GONNA BLAST THE FIRST THING THAT MOVES

THIS FEELS GREAT I'D FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED MY HOMELAND
A MONSTER!
NOT A MONSTER, A SEA WITCH.
AND I FROWN ON KILLING
POOM!
HEADS UP HIGHNOTE MY LOVE
EEEEEE
SONIC BLAST TOOK CARE OF THE EXPLOSIVES BUT CAN'T FORGET ABOUT THIS GUY
WE CAME BACK TO EARTH TO CHECK OUT THE EVIL THAT DAYDREAMER SENSED - A ROGUE GOD ON THE LOOSE --
--AND WE WIND UP HAVING TO DEAL WITH THESE TERRORISTS WHEN WILL MAN LEARN TO CONTROL HIS VIOLENT IMPULSES?
"AT LEAST THE CHILDREN ARE SAFE --
"--FOR NOW."

OW- HE BROKE MY HAND!
EASY. THE HEALING POWERS OF CADECUS WILL FIX YOU RIGHT UP.
TELL ME WHAT DOES THIS STRANGE TATTOO MEAN... ?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, FREAK
WHY WERE YOU GOING TO BLOW UP THAT SCHOOL BUS? WHAT WOULD THAT ACCOMPLISH?
DON'T TELL THEM NOTHING. THEY CAN'T KEEP US HERE FOREVER
DON'T WORRY. THEY CAN TORTURE ME ALL THEY WANT, BUT THEY WON'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF ME
REALLY? I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF YOUR SITUATION
I WANT ANSWERS AND I WANT THEM NOW!
ULP!

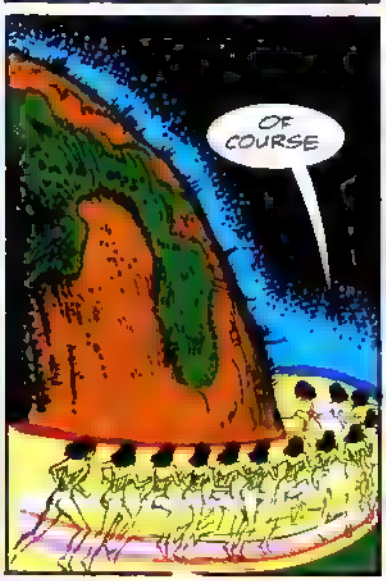

THE THREE OF THEM TALKED AND TALKED T'S AMAZING WHAT A L TTLE FORCEFUL PRODDING CAN ACHIEVE.
THEY CLAIMED ALLEGIANCE TO THE CULT OF TUATHA DE DANANN--THE PEOPLE OF THE GODDESS, DANU.
THEY WORSHIP THE ANCIENT CELTIC GODS, AND THESE SO CALLED CULTISTS ARE BENT ON DESTROYING ALL MODERN RELIGIONS SAVE THEIR OWN
THEIR INFORMATION HAS LED US HERE TO THIS "SIDE."* IT'S JUST LIKE THE PLACE FROM MY DREAM.
* AN ANCIENT CELTIC BURIAL MOUND--TERRY.


SOME-TIMES I WISH I WAS NEVER CHOSEN TO BE A GOD.

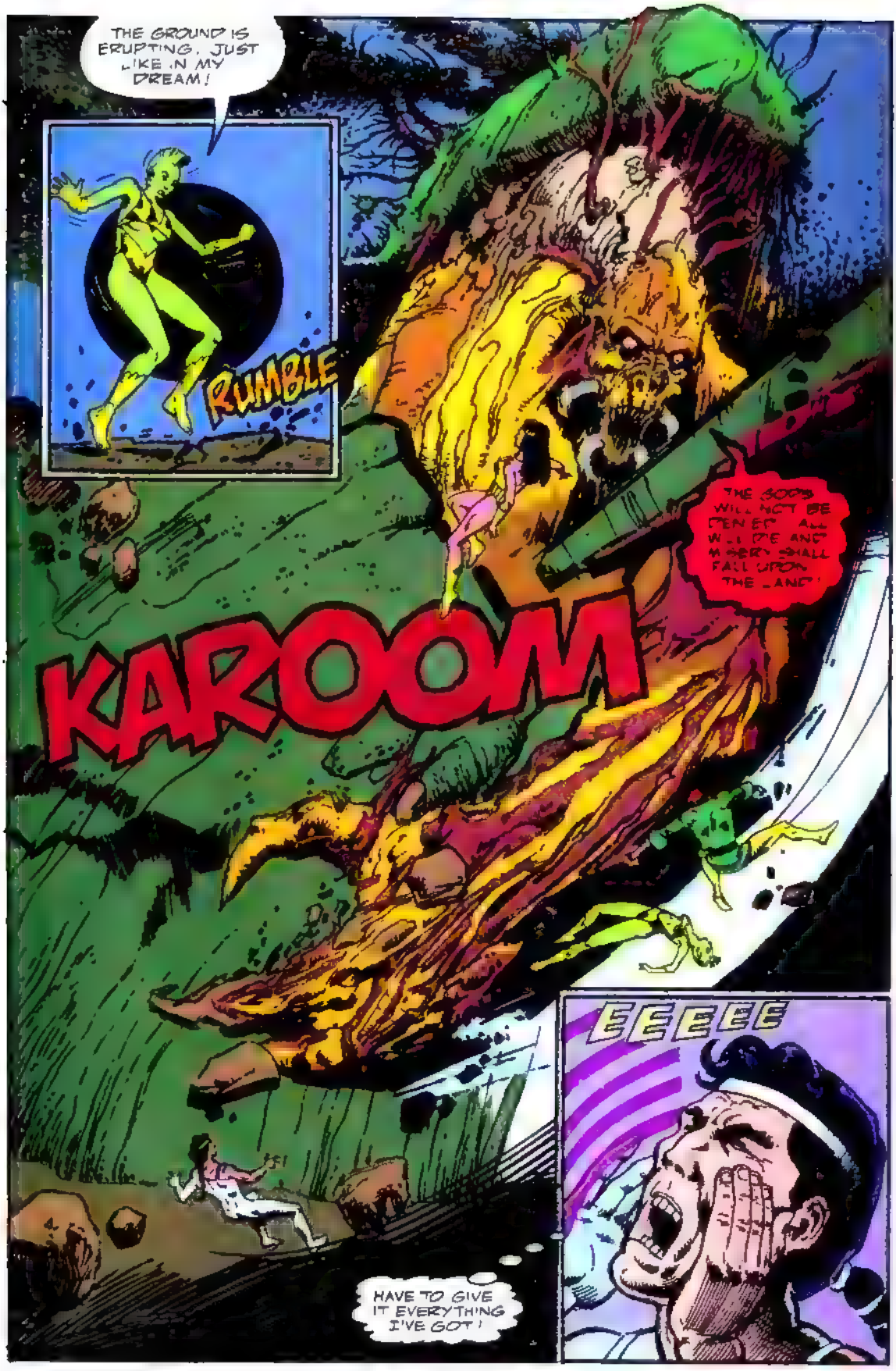
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NEAR ME, MY SWEET?
WHAT AN EGO YOU HAVE, RAOUL

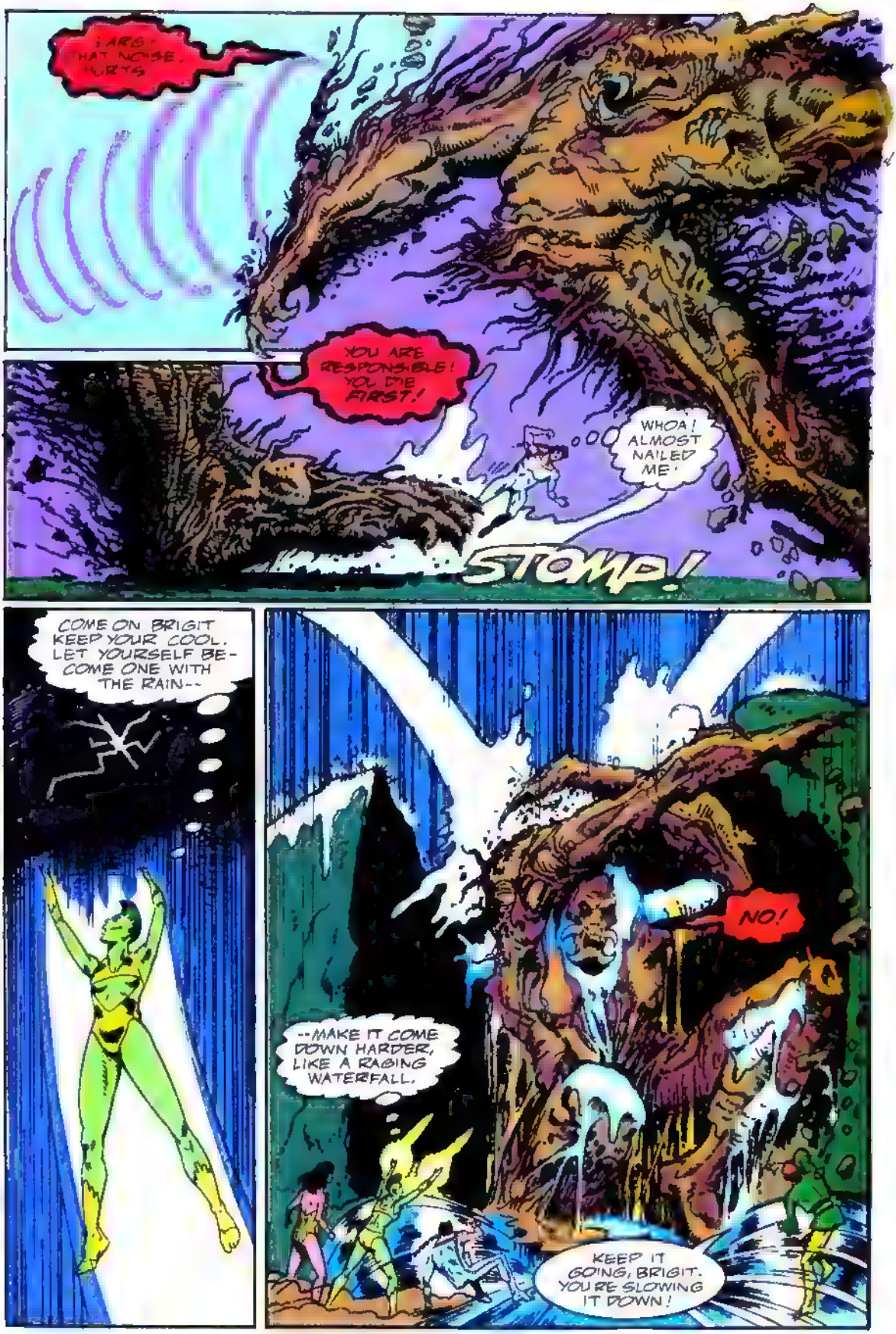
THOSE STONE MARKERS ARE JUST LIKE THE TERRORISTS TATTOOS

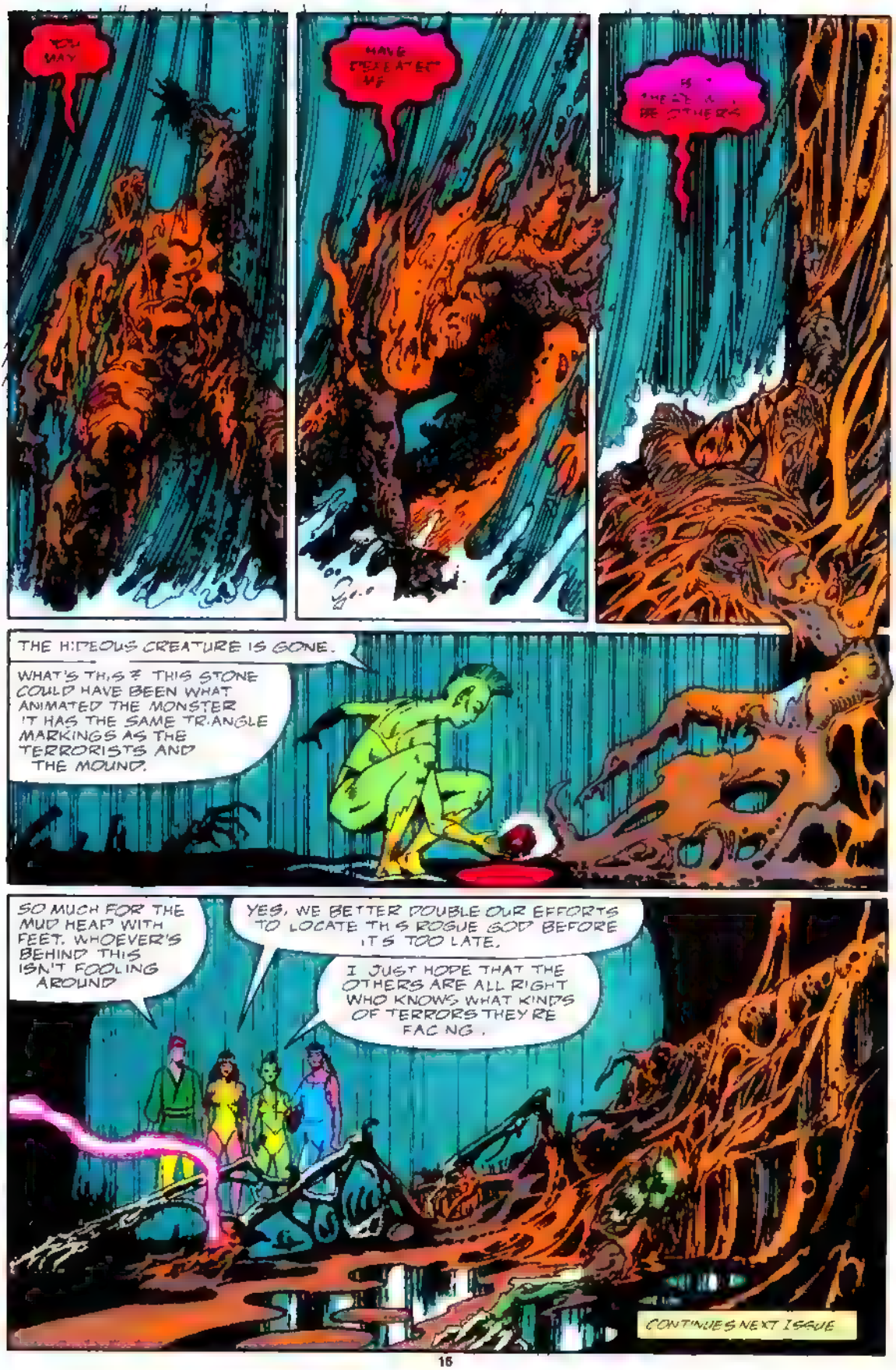
WAIT HERE, LET ME TAKE A HYPER-SPEED "LOOK SEE."
BE CAREFUL, MOON-STALKER.


OF COURSE

HMM. A CAMOUFLAGED OPENING. I'LL TAKE A QUICK PEEK AND THEN GET THE OTHERS -UH, OH...


THE GROUND IS ERUPTING. JUST LIKE IN MY DREAM!
RUMBLE
KAROOM
THE GODS WILL NOT BE DENIED! ALL WILL DIE AND MISERY SHALL FALL UPON THE LAND!
EEEEE
HAVE TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!


ARG! THAT NOISE, HURTS
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE! YOU DIE FIRST!
WHOA! ALMOST NAILED ME!
STOMP!
COME ON BRIGIT KEEP YOUR COOL. LET YOURSELF BE-COME ONE WITH THE RAIN--
--MAKE IT COME DOWN HARDER, LIKE A RAGING WATERFALL.
NO!
KEEP IT GOING, BRIGIT. YOU'RE SLOWING IT DOWN!


YOU MAY
HAVE DEFEATED ME
IS THERE A... BE OTHERS
THE HIDEOUS CREATURE IS GONE.
WHAT'S THIS? THIS STONE COULD HAVE BEEN WHAT ANIMATED THE MONSTER IT HAS THE SAME TRIANGLE MARKINGS AS THE TERRORISTS AND THE MOUND.
SO MUCH FOR THE MUD HEAP WITH FEET. WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS ISN'T FOOLING AROUND
YES, WE BETTER DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO LOCATE THIS ROGUE GOD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
I JUST HOPE THAT THE OTHERS ARE ALL RIGHT WHO KNOWS WHAT KINDS OF TERRORS THEY'RE FACING.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE

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AND
DR. STRANGE
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387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

After reading MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS for 97 issues, I figured it was about time I dropped you a letter. So here are my comments on issue #97. First, let's do the covers.

Ghost Rider/Cable: Sam Kieth does not know how to draw the faces of Cable or everyone's favorite Spirit of Vengeance. Grade: C.

Wolverine: I'm not too thrilled with his version of Logan; either I like the animal skull, though. Grade: C+.

Now the stories.

"Servants of the Dead" Part 8: Wow! Since this story started, it has been nothing but fantastic. Guang Yap draws a mean Ghost Rider, and Howard Mackie's story and dialogue is, as usual, flawless. The black borders around the pages were also a good idea. Kudos to whoever's idea this was. Grade: A+.

"Wild Frontier" Part 5: I read in an interview with Tim Truman that the Uncegila is a bona fide Indian legend. This was a good idea of Tim's. While reading a great Wolverine story, people will also be learning about the culture and beliefs of a tribe of Indians. As for Wolverine dreaming he lived back during the days of the Hudson Fur Company, that's also a good idea of Tim's. Grade: A+.

"Bar With No Name": This was a very funny story. I always wondered what super-criminals did in their spare time. Now we know. They wreck bars! A very funny story. Good job, Fisch, Bagley, Hudson, Sharpe and Mendez. Grade: A+.

"Silver Surfer": I also liked this story a lot. Wilson and LaRosa draw a great Silver Surfer, not to mention a great Mr. Fantastic. And speaking of Dr. Richards, why wasn't he given co-billing with the Surfer? Grade: A.

Overall grade for MCP #97: B+.

Ben Herman
New Rochelle, NY

Sorry, Ben, but we can only give top billing to one guy in our one-shots—and we had to give the nod to the Surfer. You don't mess around with cosmically powered folks, okay?

Dear Terry,

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #97 was only an average effort from an above average comic. Does that mean this issue was above average? Yes.

Thank heavens that the Wolverine storyline is coming to a close next issue. There really isn't anything about it that I have enjoyed. The art is marginal, and the story seems disjointed and out of place. At least with the "Weapon-X" and "Blood Hungry" series, you gave us reason to come back for more. Has the price increase caused a quality decrease? Thumbs down.

The Silver Surfer one-shot, while being a pleasant read, appeared to be lacking something. Kudos to Ron Wilson for the art—give that man a better inker and you could just have something special. The story seemed like every FANTASTIC FOUR comic I've ever read. It just didn't move me. Thumbs down.

Hmm. I wonder what happens when we flip the book over?

Well, well. The conclusion of the "Servants of the Dead" story line was outstanding! The only problem is that it seems like you wrote the rest of the story just so that you could write this part. This series would have been much better as a four- or six-parter. Good job, Howard. Thumbs up.

And finally, we come to the biggest surprise in recent MCP history. "Where Everybody Knows Your Alias" was an extremely good read. It was light-hearted and didn't take itself too seriously. The art was also excellent. These small glimpses into the everyday lives of characters are much appreciated. This was the most fun since part two of "Just Friends." An enthusiastic thumbs up!

Matt Miller
P.O. Box 210093
Bedford, TX 76095

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS GHOST RIDER

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

GHOST RIDER/ DR. STRANGE..... 1
DOORWAY TO DARKNESS
Part 3 of 6
"PAIN"

Last issue, Dr. Strange enlisted the aid of Ghost Rider in his investigation of the disturbance in the Mystic Realm. Meanwhile, the evil Gormac plots...

Writer — HOWARD MACKIE
Penciler — RICK LEONARDI
Inker — JIMMY PALMIOTTI
Letterer —JANICE CHIANG
Colorist — FRED MENDEZ

pg.

RINTRAH..... 9
"STAGE FRIGHT"

Rintrah—bovine sorcerer, disciple of Dr. Strange—is trying to enjoy a night of Shakespeare in the park. But can he do so without causing a panic?

Writer —JAMES FELDER
Penciler — LARRY ALEXANDER
Inker — JONATHAN HOLDREDGE
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — PAT GARRAHY

NEXT ISSUE: WOLVERINE AND NIGHTCRAWLER JOIN FORCES WITH THE MONSTERS OF WINZEL DORF! GHOST RIDER AND DR. STRANGE TRAVEL INTO THE REALM OF GORMAC! THE YOUNG GODS TAKE THEIR ADVENTURE TO EARTH! AND THE U.S. AGENT FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF RACIAL STRIFE! ALL THE REAL THING!

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS CHAPTER 3:
PAIN
THIRTY SECONDS AGO, EUGENE STONE, STOCK BROKER, CRACK ADDICT AND SERIAL KILLER EXPERIENCED TRUE PAIN
IN THE PAST HALF MINUTE, EUGENE HAS EXPERIENCED ALL THE HURT THAT HE HAS EVER INFLICTED ON A LIVING BEING. .
THE GHOST RIDER'S PENANCE STARE WAS THE INSTRUMENT OF THIS PAIN.
FROM THE CAT HE KILLED WHEN HE WAS TWELVE TO SARAH PARSON WHO DIED AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF TORTURE BY EUGENE.
SHE WAS HIS FIRST HUMAN KILL.
THERE WERE TOO MANY TO COUNT AFTER THAT.
EUGENE HAS OFTEN RELIVED THOSE DEATHS, BUT THIS TIME .
. . HE FEELS THE PAIN OF HIS VICTIMS AS THEY FELT IT.
GHOST RIDER
DR. STRANGE
A DIVE OFF THE ROOFTOP WAS HIS ONLY HOPE TO ESCAPE THE AGONY HE FEELS SEARING HIS MIND.. HIS SOUL.
EUGENE SEEKS TO ESCAPE HIS PAIN THROUGH DEATH.
WRONG AGAIN, EUGENE

NO.
IT'S NOT OVER YET
I'M DYING..
..BROKEN UP INSIDE AND OUT BUT THE PAIN...
.. WANT IT TO STOP! I WANT TO DIE!
WHAT HAVE WE HERE, SLICK?
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING WE COULD USE.
YEP! HE'S CERTAINLY THE TYPE!
LET'S BRING HIM TO BORN!
HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
YOU KNOW, I THINK I LIKE YOU BETTER SINCE HE BIT YOUR HEAD OFF!
YOU ARGUE A LOT LESS.

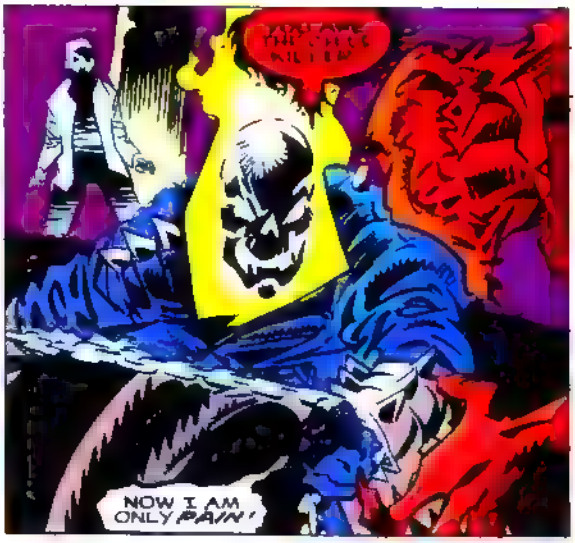
HIGH ABOVE BROOKLYN..
MEYNN! STOP SQUIRMING!
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HIM!
I CANNOT KEEP YOU AND GHOST RIDER ALOFT WITH MY SPELL OF LEVITATION IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING AGAINST IT!
HIS HEAD . . THE FIRE. .
HE STRAINS!
I SEE HIM!
HIS HEAD..
HIS HEAD.
THE FIRE
DADDY?!
MOMMY! WHY?
BORN!
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!

YOUR MOTORCYCLE HAS FOLLOWED US
I CAN LOWER HIM TO IT SAFELY
NO!
GOT TO GET AWAY RUN AWAY
I ALWAYS CAUSE SO MUCH TROUBLE
FOR MYSELF AND
ALL THE DOORS!
SO MANY DOORS
BAD THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN WHEN I GO THROUGH THE DOORS!
DADDY! HELP ME!
NO DADDIES HERE, KEV!
JUST US!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, BUD? WE'VE MISSED YOU!
NOW WHAT SAY WE TAKE A STEP THROUGH THE OL' DOORWAY AGAIN?
GORN WANTS TO FINISH HIS TALK WITH YOU
NO.
NO!
COME ON, KEVIN. WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR DADDY AND MOMMY. IT WAS YOUR FAULT. NOW YOUR MOM IS PAYING FOR WHAT HAPPENED BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T, GORN WILL HELP MAKE IT BETTER!
TCHHNK
YOU'RE STARTIN' TO ANNOY ME, KID! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO

I LEAVE THE UNTIL A CER DEMON
DEMON! THAT'S THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK, ISN'T IT?
BUT IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT
SLICK GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER AND SEE IF GORN IS DONE WITH EUGENE!
GHOST RIDER, BE CAREFUL! THE HEADLESS ONE IS REACHING THROUGH SOME SORT OF DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE WILL PULL FROM THE OTHER SIDE
PAIN!!!

PAIN
PAIN
PAIN
YOU DID THIS TO ME!
IT WON'T STOP!
I HAVE TO PASS IT ON BACK TO YOU


NOW I AM ONLY PAIN!

SORCEROR SUPREME!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST SERVANTS OF GORN!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS GORN IS, BUT PERHAPS AFTER I'VE SUBDUED YOU TWO, YOU WILL LEAD ME TO HIM
THERE ARE QUESTIONS I WOULD HAVE ANSWERED

MOMMY WAS RIGHT

I'M NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

TROUBLEEEEEEEE

YEAH!
THE KID FELL THROUGH THE DOORWAY!
GHOST RIDER! USE YOUR CHAIN TO SNAG PAIN!
CLOSE ENOUGH TO FREE WILL FOR A TOWN THIS SIZE!
WE'RE OUT OF HERE!
COME ALONG, EUGENE! BEFORE THE DOORWAY TO GORN CLOSES WITHOUT YOU!
TCHMK
I HAVE BOUND HIM TO US!
HOLD ON!
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHERE OUR JOURNEY WILL TAKE US!
NEXT ISSUE
INTO THE REALM OF GORN!

BY HOGGOTH! DOCTOR STRANGE WARNED ME BUT NOW MY CARELESSNESS MAY COST ME MY LIFE!
KILL HIM! HE'S A MONSTER!
THE SCENE: BELVEDERE CASTLE, CENTRAL PARK... BEYOND THE ROCKS IS A FALL EVEN DOCTOR STRANGE'S GARGANTUAN APPRENTICE, RINTRAH, MIGHT NOT SURVIVE
THE ANGRY MOB PRESSES CLOSER.. BUT WE MUST APOLOGIZE, WE HAVE ONLY SHOWN YOU THE FINAL SCENE FROM A VIGNETTE CALLED SIMPLY--
STAGE FRIGHT
FEATURING RINTRAH
TO SEE HOW THIS CAME TO PASS, LET US JOIN OUR DRAMATIS PERSONAE WHEN THE CURTAINS FIRST OPENED EARLIER THAT MORNING..

DOCTOR STRANGE'S GREENWICH VILLAGE SANCTUM SANCTORUM
RINTRAH! YOU SURPRISE ME.
INSIDE, THE MORNING LESSON ON LEVITATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE.
YOUR STUDIES HAVE PROGRESSED FASTER THAN I THOUGHT.
THANK YOU, MASTER I CAN EASILY DO MORE THAN THIS
DO NOT LET HUBRIS DESTROY WHAT HARD WORK HAS ACHIEVED BUT, IF YOU CAN, PUPIL... SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT
YES, MASTER! FIRST TO TEND TO THE JUST-ARRIVED MS. WOLFE-- MY DATE FOR TONIGHT'S SHAKE SPEARE IN THE PARK PERFORMANCE...
UH... THANK YOU, RINTRAH.
AND BEFORE I CONJURE SUGAR CUBES FROM THE DARK DIMENSION...
A DISGUISE IS CALLED FOR. WE WOULD BE MADE TO SIT IN THE LAST ROW, IF THE AUDIENCE THOUGHT THEY WOULD HAVE THESE HORNS TO LOOK AROUND.
A SIMPLE SPELL, SNAP OF THE FINGERS.

OH! I AM SORRY MASTER A SMALL MIS-
NOT A SMALL MISTAKE, A DEADLY ONE! HERE IN THIS SECLUDED STUDY, IT MEANS LITTLE. BUT A MINOR MESS
BUT, OUTSIDE THESE ENCHANTED WALLS, YOU ARE NOT EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE CONSEQUENCES.
IF THERE IS ONE LESSON YOU LEARN TODAY, RINTRAH, THIS MUST BE IT ATTEND CAREFULLY..
IN THE SHAKESPEARE I HAVE GIVEN YOU, MACBETH HEEDS THE WITCHES' COUNSEL WITH RESPECT.
BUT, IN OUR REAL WORLD, PEOPLE THOUGHT TO HAVE MANIFESTED MAGIC WERE ONCE BURNED ALIVE AT THE STAKE!
I TAUGHT YOU THAT THIS HEAVY TOME CONTAINED ALL OF HUMAN EMOTION. BUT TO READ OF IT AND TO UNDERSTAND IT ARE TWO SEPARATE THINGS.
TO USE SHAKESPEAREAN LESSONS TO CONFRONT THE REAL WORLD IS THE MOST DIFFICULT OF TASKS.
THE COLLECTED WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
UNTIL YOU HAVE MASTERED THIS LESSON, IT IS NOT SAFE TO LET THE OUTSIDE WORLD KNOW YOUR SECRET. DO NOT LET FOOLISHNESS SAP THE GREAT CONCENTRATION NEEDED FOR YOUR DISGUISE SPELL!
NOW GO, OR YOU WILL BE LATE.
STEPHEN'S BEING PRETTY HARSH.. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL SUMMER DAY HAS JUST BEGUN IN CENTRAL PARK, BUT STILL SARA AND RINTRAH HAVE COME TOO LATE.
UPON THE MOURNING TAPESTRIES OF GORDONNA! WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE AHEAD OF US WE WILL NEVER GET A SEAT!
DON'T WORRY, RINTRAH! LOOK UP THERE. ALL THOSE PEOPLE OUTSIDE BELVEDERE CASTLE PROBABLY COULDN'T GET TICKETS EITHER. I BET FROM THERE YOU CAN LOOK RIGHT DOWN ONTO THE STAGE. COME ON!
AFTER A HEALTHY WALK UP BELVEDERE ROCK..
THE EVENING DESCENDS AND A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BEGINS...
SARA, THIS WILL BE A MOST SPLENDID PLACE TO SEE THE PLAY.
YEAH... THE CASTLE BEHIND US AND THE LAKE FAR BELOW- IT'S SO ROMANTIC!
...MY GENTLE PUCK COME HITHER. THOU REMEMB'RST SINCE ONCE I SAT UPON A PROMONTORY, AND HEARD A MERMAID ON A DOLPHIN'S BACK UTTERING SUCH DULCET AND HARMONIOUS BREATH THAT THE RUDE SEA GREW CIVIL AT HER SONG
THIS IS A RARE TREAT I HAVE READ ALL OF THE BARD'S WORKS, BUT NEVER HAVE I SEEN ANY OF THEM PERFORMED.
IT'S FANTASTIC! THE LIGHTING EFFECTS ARE INCREDIBLE! ALMOST BETTER THAN STEPHEN'S BAG OF TRICKS.
.. AND CERTAIN STARS SHOT MADLY FROM THEIR SPHERES, TO HEAR THE SEA-MAID'S MUSIC.

THOUGH RINTRAH MARVELS AT THE PLAY, ONE MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE IS NOT AS IMPRESSED...
IT IS WONDERFUL, MS. WOLFE. LIKE THE PLAY HAS COME TO LIFE!
AW, I'M BORED! BUNCHA DUMB GUYS IN PANTY-HOSE. SIS JUST TOOK ME SO SHE COULD SMOOCH WITH HER BOY-FRIEND IN THE PARK.
SUDDENLY, THE BOY UN-KNOWINGLY WANDERS INTO THE PATH OF THE ROVING SPOTLIGHTS...
WHA--?!
CLOSE TO THE EDGE, THE SHOCK SENDS THE BOY TUMBLING OFF THE ROCKS...
AAIEEEE!
RINTRAH!
...TOWARDS CERTAIN DOOM!
THAT IS, IF RINTRAH WASN'T ON THE SCENE!
I ONLY HOPE MY POWER DOES NOT FAIL ME IN THIS TIME OF NEED.
BUT TROUBLE IS BREW-ING ABOVE, AS THE CON-CENTRATION THE LEVIT-ATION REQUIRED CAUSES RINTRAH'S DISGUISE TO SNAP OFF!
THE LEVITATION SPELL SOFTLY FLOATS THE BOY DOWN TO THE LAKE-SHORE BELOW.
THE MAN-CHILD IS SAFE!
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME?
OH NO!

BY ALL THE WOVEN WORLDS! THE WORST HAS COME TO PASS.
I MUST THINK QUICKLY -- THE SITUATION GROWS WORSE BY THE MINUTE!
HEY, MARY, I THINK THAT THING THREW YOUR LITTLE BROTHER OFF THE ROCKS.
YEAH!

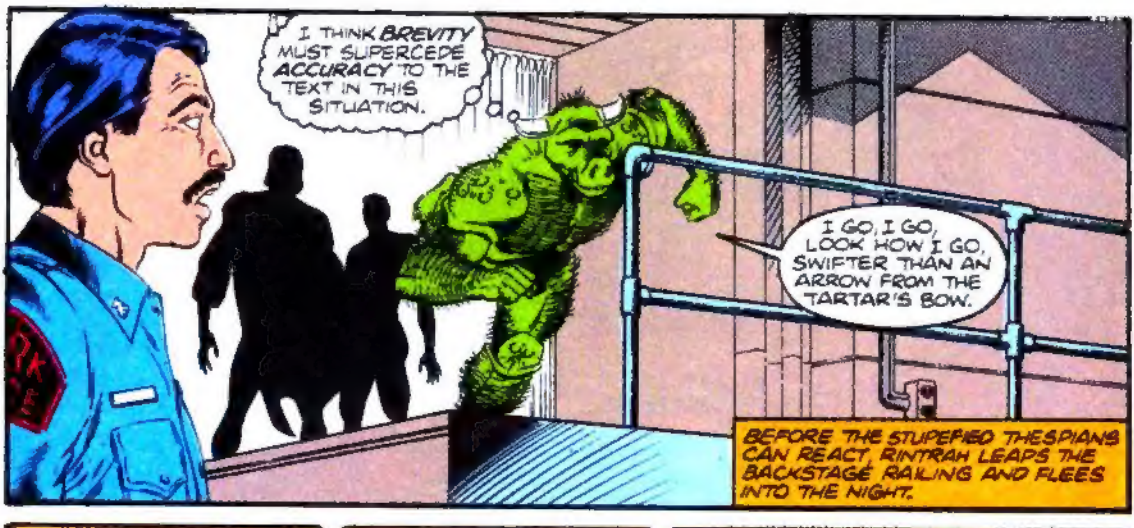
WHAT THE HECK!
WOW!

WITH THE EYES OF HUNDREDS UPON HIM, RINTRAH HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE HIS STAGE DEBUT!
THROUGH THE FOREST HAVE I GONE, BUT ATHENIAN FOUND I NONE... AH... UH... SO AWAKE WHEN I AM GONE, FOR I MUST NOW GO TO OBERON.
NOW IF I CAN JUST REMEMBER THAT TELEPORTATION SPELL I SAW IN THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI LAST WEEK.

POOF

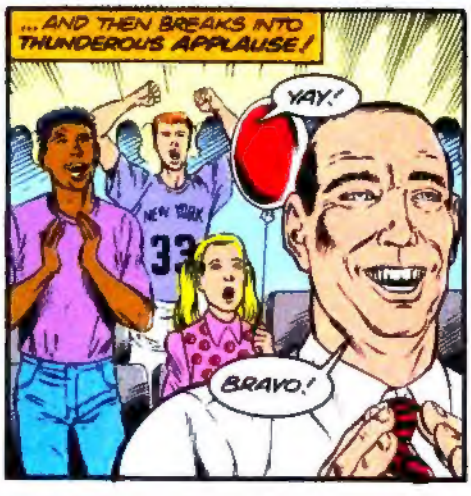
S'BLOOD! I ONLY GOT AS FAR AS THE STAGE. WHAT NOW?

I LOVE THEE NOT; THEREFORE PURSUE ME NOT. WHERE IS LYSANDER AND FAIR HERMIA?... UH, THOU TOLDST ME THEY WHERE STOL'N UNTO THIS WOOD; AND HERE AM I... AH...
UPON THE COSMIC LOOM, IF I CAN JUST REMEMBER THAT NEXT LINE!


I THINK BREVITY MUST SUPERCEDE ACCURACY TO THE TEXT IN THIS SITUATION.
I GO, I GO, LOOK HOW I GO. SWIFTER THAN AN ARROW FROM THE TARTAR'S BOW.
BEFORE THE STUPEFIED THESPIANS CAN REACT, RINTRAH LEAPS THE BACKSTAGE RAILING AND FLEES INTO THE NIGHT.

WELL, I SUPPOSE ANY EXIT ONE CAN RUN AWAY FROM IS A GOOD EXIT.

THE AUDIENCE STARES IN STUNNED SURPRISE FOR SEVERAL SECONDS...


...AND THEN BREAKS INTO THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE!
YAY!
BRAVO!

ON THE PATH HOME, AFTER THE SHOW...
RINTRAH, ARE YOU OKAY?
HE'S FINE. A LITTLE SHAKEN, BUT FINE.
YES, BUT IS THE MAN-CHILD ALL RIGHT?
SARA, MAY WE KEEP THIS OUR LITTLE SECRET?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I WAS SPEAKING OF--
NO, NO, NO! I KNEW WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT. I JUST MEANT-- NEVER MIND.

THE NEXT DAY AT BREAKFAST...
SO, HOW DID YOU TWO ENJOY THE SHOW?
WELL... AH...
UM...
IT WAS MOST EXCITING!!
IT WAS... IT WAS REALLY SOMETHING!
HMMM...
YES, BY THE SOUND OF IT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY ENLIGHTENING.
The Daily Bugle
A very gentle beast, and of a good conscience